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President Bush speaks to Marines during a visit Tuesday to Camp Pendleton, Calif. The president told the assembled crowd “one of America’s greatest blessings is the men and women who wear our nation’s uniform”. Cpl. Samuel Palmer/MCB Camp Pendleton

Bush visits Pendleton to say thanks

BY CPL. SAMUEL PALMER
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

President George W. Bush stood before thousands of Camp Pendleton Marines Tuesday, thanking them for their efforts in Iraq and declaring terrorists won’t be able to control Iraq’s destiny.

Bush landed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar early Tuesday, only to be transported to Pendleton by Marine One, the president’s official helicopter. He spent the day with Marines to thank them in a prepared speech, have lunch with the troops at a mess hall and meet with families of fallen or injured service members.

Thousands of Marines representing nearly every command on Pendleton greeted the president with a round of “ooh-rahs.” Bush, wearing a tanker jacket with a U.S. Marine Corps seal on the right side and “Commander-In-Chief” stitched on the left, thanked U.S. forces for making the sacrifices needed to make America safer.

“In the war on terror, you have fought enemies’ freedom - freedom’s enemies from the caves and mountains of Afghanistan to the deserts and cities of Iraq,” Bush said to the Marines of I Marine Expeditionary Force. “Marines of Camp Pendleton’s 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were the first conventional forces to fight in Operation Enduring Freedom. They deployed hundreds of miles into a landlocked country to help seize the Kandahar Airport, hunted down the Taliban and al Qaeda fighters, and helped to liberate more than 28 million people from one of the world’s most brutal regimes.”

Bush said he expects the work by Marines to pay off. He pointed to Iraq’s anticipated Jan. 30 election date, but warned, “we can

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MADE *to* ORDER

DI School pledges professionalism; new 1st sergeant clears boot-camp misconception

BY MASTER SGT. JANICE M. HAGAR
Public affairs chief

According to rumor, Drill Instructor School is like returning to boot camp, and consequently, some students might show up there thinking they are in for a trip back to their first day on the yellow footprints.

But that’s only rumor. While the school is challenging, it’s not a return to recruit training, according to the school’s new first sergeant.

“Professionalism starts here,” said 1st Sgt. Robert A. Ledferd, first sergeant of DI School here. “The focus here is on leadership. We focus on the leadership traits and principals, and that creates a professional atmosphere.”

Ledferd was assigned to DI School last August after serving as first sergeant for Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. As the senior enlisted Marine at the school, Ledferd helps ensure the future drill instructors are prepared to train the Marine Corps’ future recruits.

Marines headed to the drill field start their journey at the 12-week long school. During the course, students will spend 55 training days mastering a variety of subjects, including extensive first aid classes, CPR, general military subjects, swim qualification and physical fitness training. They’ll also participate in and conduct uniform inspections and have their leadership

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Drill Instructor School student Sgt. Adam N. Davison gives drill commands to squad member Sgt. Jeffrey M. Rogers. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos

Drill Instructor School students take a written CPR test during their fourth week of a 12-week training cycle. The students must master general military subjects, swimming and physical fitness training. This class, Class 1-05, graduates Wednesday.



Nice Guys bring food, fun to community Christmas party

BY SGT. RYAN SMITH
Chevron staff

The giving spirit of the holiday season was filling the air around Qualcomm Stadium Saturday as hundreds of families gathered to receive a helping hand from some nice guys.

More than 640 families from San Diego showed up for the invitation-only Nice Guys, Inc. 2004 Community

Christmas Party, which included free carnival rides, food, music, children’s games and activities, as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

George Sports, board member and event chairman, said Nice Guys sent out 720 invitations for this year’s Christmas party to many different organizations.

“We sent the invitations to county church groups, military organizations and social organizations for them to dis-

tribute to those families they saw needed it,” said Sports.

An estimated 2,000 children were present for the fun, food and games provided during the party. All of the events for the day were free to the attendees including a children’s workshop from Home Depot and displays from the San Diego County Fire and Police Departments.

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expect further violence ... The terrorists will do all they can to delay and disrupt free elections in Iraq. And they will fail.”
Bush promised, as he has repeatedly over recent days, the elections “will proceed as planned.”
“You see, the terrorists understand what is at stake,” the president said. “They know they have no future in a free Iraq.”
“They know democracy will give Iraqis a stake in the future of their country,” Bush continued in his comments about Marines’ enemies in Iraq. “When Iraqis choose their leader in free elections, it will destroy the myth that the terrorists are fighting a foreign occupation and make clear that what the terrorists really are fighting is the will of the Iraqi people.”
Bush ate a sit-down lunch with Marines, sailors and soldiers at a nearby mess hall. After finishing his plate of beef, noodles and rice, and talking with nearby Marines, he greeted service members.
The president finished his visit to Pendleton by spending time with families of wounded and fallen Marines and sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force at the Paige Field House. It was a time when news cameras weren’t present, giving the families complete access to the commander-in-chief.
“Words can only go so far in capturing the grief and sense of loss for the families of those who have died,” Bush said. “But you can know this: They gave their lives for a cause that is just. And as in other generations, their sacrifice will have spared millions from the lives of tyranny and sorrow.”



President Bush poses for pictures with Marines during a luncheon Tuesday at Camp Pendleton. Cpl. Samuel Palmer/MCB Camp Pendleton

The visit marked the second time Bush visited Pendleton and the first since the Global War on Terrorism began. Bush last addressed Marines at the base in May 2001 during his first visit to California as president. Pendleton Marines have been involved in nearly every stage of the Global War on Terrorism, fighting in Afghanistan, the toppling of Saddam Hussein and

the ongoing stabilization of Iraq’s Al Anbar Province. Among their missions, Pendleton Marines were among the thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops who fought recently to secure the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah. More than 21,000 Marines and sailors from the I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Pendleton, are serving in operations in Iraq.



Participant James Thompson brought his 1985 Ford Ranger from MTV’s “Pimp My Ride.” Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

Hobby shop hosts car show

Service members, civilians showcase their rides

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

To tunes from the 1950s and 1960s, the Marine Corps Community Services’ Auto Hobby Shop hosted an auto show Saturday featuring more than 100 muscle cars, classic cars and custom cars.
“The hobby shop hosts a lot of Marines and sailors,” said shop manager Jose Garcia. “We see a lot of military in our shop, so we decided to show them what their own sailors and Marines have put together.”
Admission to the show was free and open to civilians.
More than 70 military personnel registered their cars to be part of the show. Civilian participants had to pay a \$5 entry fee and donate one unopened toy for the Marine Corps

Reserves “Toys for Tots” charity. Service members were also required to donate toys.
James Thompson was one of the civilians who participated in the show. He introduced his tricked out 1985 Ford Ranger that was customized on the MTV show “Pimp My Ride.”
Judges awarded trophies in six different categories that included the people’s choice, custom, classic, muscle, motorcycle and the general award.
Staff Sgt. Jerry Royal, depot operations and training chief, received the first-place prize for the motorcycle category. All winners came away with a plaque and a photograph of their winning vehicle.
North County Times’ Dave Stall raffled off Snap-On tool chests to two winners.

The auto show featured guest judges and a guest announcer to broadcast the show. Bob “Showboat” Chabot, writer for the East County Paper, appeared as a guest judge and Stall was the announcer for the show. Stall is also a disc jockey on KFMB AM radio from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
“The show was actually two years in the making before we made it happen,” said Garcia.
The show was scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. but ended an hour early because of rain.
“I think we had a great show, and a pretty good turnout for the first show,” said Stall.
The show received depot command approval to become an annual event, according to Garcia. To find out times of operation or schedules for future events, call Jose Garcia at (619) 524-5240.



From top to bottom, a 1934 Ford pickup, a 1934 Ford two-door sedan, a 1957 Chevy four-door, 210 judged by Michael O’Donnel, and two early model 1930s Fords.

A hero’s sacrifice

BY LANCE CPL. T. J. KAEMMERER
1st Force Service Support Group

As a combat correspondent, I was attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines for Operation Al Fajr, to make sure the stories of heroic actions and the daily realities of battle were told.
On this day, I found myself without my camera. With the batteries dead, I decided to leave the camera behind and live up to the ethos “every Marine a rifle-man,” by volunteering to help clear the fateful buildings that lined streets.

After seven days of intense fighting in Fallujah, the Marines of 1/3 embraced a new day with a faceless enemy.
We awoke November 15, 2004, around day-break in the abandoned, battle-worn house we had made our home for the night. We shaved, ate breakfast from a Meal, Ready-to-Eat pouch and waited for the word to move.
The word came, and we started what we had done since the operation began – clear the city of insurgents, building by building.

As an attachment to the unit, I had been placed as the third man in a six-man group, or what Marines call a ‘stack.’ Two stacks of Marines were used to clear a house. Moving quickly from the third house to the fourth, our order in the stack changed. I found Sgt. Rafael Peralta in my spot, so I fell in behind him as we moved toward the house.
A Mexican-American who lived in San Diego, Peralta earned his citizenship after he joined the Marine Corps. He was a platoon scout, which meant he could have stayed back in safety while the squads of 1st Platoon went into the danger-filled streets, but he was constantly asking to help out by giving them an extra Marine. I learned by speaking with him and other Marines the night before that he frequently put his safety, reputation and career on the line for the needs and morale of the junior Marines around him.

When we reached the fourth house, we breached the gate and swiftly approached the building. The first Marine in the stack kicked in the front door, revealing a locked door to their front and another at the right.
Kicking in the doors simultaneously, one stack filed swiftly into the room to the front as the other group of Marines darted off to the right.
“Clear!” screamed the Marines in one of the rooms, followed only seconds later by another shout of “Clear!” from the second room. One word told us all we wanted to know about the rooms: there was no one in there to shoot at us.
We found that the two rooms were adjoined and we had another closed door in front of us. We spread ourselves throughout the rooms to avoid a cluster going through the next door.
Two Marines stacked to the left of the door as Peralta, rifle in hand, tested the handle. I watched from the middle,

‘You’re still here, don’t forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today.’

Cpl. Richard A. Mason, infantryman, 1/3



Lance Cpl. Travis J. Kaemmerer, (above) a 21-year-old native of Taunton, Mass., is a combat correspondent assigned to the 1st Force Service Support Group and currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. As a combat correspondent, he was attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines during recent combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. His job was to make sure the stories of heroic actions and the daily realities of battle were told. Staff Sgt. Jim Goodwin



Sgt. Rafael Peralta covered a grenade with his body to protect other Marines. He was 25. Official USMC photo

slightly off to the right of the room as the handle turned with ease.
Ready to rush into the rear part of the house, Peralta threw open the door.
‘POP! POP! POP!’ Multiple bursts of cap-gun-like sounding AK-47 fire rang throughout the house.
Three insurgents with AK-47s were waiting for us behind the door.
Peralta was hit several times in his upper torso and face at point-blank range by the fully-automatic 7.62mm weapons employed by three terrorists.
Mortally wounded, he jumped into the already cleared, adjoining room, giving the rest of us a clear line of fire through the doorway to the rear of the house.
We opened fire, adding the bangs of M-16 A2 service rifles, and the deafening, rolling cracks of a Squad Automatic Weapon, or “SAW,” to the already nerve-racking sound of the AKs. One Marine was shot through the forearm and continued to fire at the enemy.
I fired until Marines closer to the door began to maneuver into better firing positions, blocking my line of fire. Not being an infantryman, I watched to see what those with more extensive training were doing.
I saw four Marines firing from the

adjoining room when a yellow, foreign-made, oval-shaped grenade bounced into the room, rolling to a stop close to Peralta’s nearly lifeless body.
In an act living up to the heroes of the Marine Corps’ past, such as Medal of Honor recipients Pfc. James LaBelle and Lance Cpl. Richard Anderson, Peralta – in his last fleeting moments of consciousness – reached out and pulled the grenade into his body. LaBelle fought on Iwo Jima and Anderson in Vietnam, both died saving their fellow Marines by smothering the blast of enemy grenades.
Peralta did the same for all of us in those rooms.
I watched in fear and horror as the other four Marines scrambled to the corners of the room and the majority of the blast was absorbed by Peralta’s now lifeless body. His selflessness left four other Marines with only minor injuries from smaller fragments of the grenade.
During the fight, a fire was sparked in the rear of the house. The flames were becoming visible through the door.
The decision was made by the Marine in charge of the squad to evacuate the injured Marines from the house, regroup and return to finish the fight and retrieve Peralta’s body.
We quickly ran for shelter, three or

four houses up the street, in a house that had already been cleared and was occupied by the squad’s platoon.
As Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Murdock took a count of the Marines coming back, he found it to be one man short, and demanded to know the whereabouts of the missing Marine.
“Sergeant Peralta! He’s dead! He’s f----- dead,” screamed Lance Cpl. Adam Morrison, a machine gunner with the squad, as he came around a corner. “He’s still in there. We have to go back.”
The ingrained code Marines have of never leaving a man behind drove the next few moments. Within seconds, we headed back to the house unknown what we may encounter yet ready for another round.
I don’t remember walking back down the street or through the gate in front of the house, but walking through the door the second time, I prayed that we wouldn’t lose another brother.
We entered the house and met no resistance. We couldn’t clear the rest of the house because the fire had grown immensely, and the danger of the enemy’s weapons cache exploding in the house was increasing by the second.
Most of us provided security while Peralta’s body was removed from the house.
We carried him back to our rally point, and upon returning, we were told the other Marines who went to support us encountered and killed the three insurgents from inside the house.
Later that night, while I was thinking about the day’s somber events, Cpl. Richard A. Mason, an infantryman with Headquarters Platoon, who, in the short time I was with the company, became my good friend, told me, “You’re still here, don’t forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today.”
As a combat correspondent, this is not only my job, but an honor.
Throughout Operation Al Fajr, we were constantly being told we were making history, but if the books never mention this battle in the future, I’m sure that the day and the sacrifice that was made, will never be forgotten by the Marines who were there.

Editors note: Peralta is a native of Mexico who yearned to be a Marine. He first had to take up residency in California before he could enlist in the Corps. His first duty station was Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Many of his depot friends showed up for memorial services at the chapel here Nov. 23 followed by funeral services at nearby Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Peralta was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, which was presented to his mother at the memorial. He is survived by his mother Rosa Maria Peralta, his brother Ricardo, his sisters Icela Donald and Karen.

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Headquarters and Service Battalion holiday giving programs

For more information, to sign-up, or to volunteer for holiday programs, please contact the Headquarters and Service Battalion chaplain's office at (619) 524-1347. It's not too late to make a difference to others in need this holiday season:

Food Collection Drive – Reach out to depot service members by giving hams, turkeys or canned food items to fill holiday food baskets. Canned items should be dropped off at the Headquarters and Service Battalion chaplain's office no later than Wednesday. Drop off turkeys and hams at the Marine Corps Family Team Building Office at Bldg. 14 from Monday through Wednesday.

Toys For Tots – Bring a new, unwrapped toy to the H&S Bn. chaplain's office no later than Dec. 17, or support Toys for Tots by participating in a run/walk event Saturday. Log on to www.usosandiego.org for more details.

Volunteer – Volunteer to serve a holiday meal to the needy at the Salvation Army's Christmas dinner downtown on Christmas from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

Upcoming Single Marine Program events

The Single Marine Program meets semimonthly to create activities and opportunities for the single Marines, sailors and geographical bachelors at the depot. For more information or to make recommendations, contact coordinator Britney O'Connor at ooconnorbe@usmc-mccs.org or at (619) 524-8240.

- The "Toys for Tots" 5-K and 8-K run is tomorrow. The run is free for SMP members.

- Single Marines are wrapping presents at the Marine Corps Exchange here Wednesday to raise money for future SMP events.

- Local families have invited Marines to celebrate the holidays Dec. 24-25. Those interested need to call O'Connor for details.

LIGHT STRAND-TASTIC

Depot Facilities Maintenance workers prepare the lights for this year's Commanding general's Christmas Tree-Lighting. At the event, Marine Band San Diego plays a Christmas concert and leads the Marines, sailors, civilians and recruits in sing-along Christmas carols.

Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron photos



- SMP will make a skiing and snowboarding trip to Big Bear, Calif., the second or third week of January. The tentative price is \$75, which covers transportation, equipment rentals and lodging.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program

One-day workshops for the PREP program Fiscal 2005 are available every other month (Feb. 16, April 27, June 22, Aug. 24) Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Center, Bldg. 111.

PREP teaches couples how to communicate effectively and work as a team to preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship, as well as solve problems and manage disagreements. Active duty members and their spouses or fiancés, as well as civilian depot employees, are invited to attend. Priority will be given to active duty members and their spouses or fiancés.

Child care is available. Please sign up no later than one week before a workshop.

For more information, call the Family Team Building office at (619) 524-0916 or (888) 718-3027.

Bible study opportunities

The Headquarters and Service Battalion Bible study, Hearers and Doers, is open to all H&S personnel, both active duty and civilian, including Recruiters School personnel and students. The group meets from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. on Tuesdays in the H&S Bn. Headquarters classroom, Bldg. 15. The group is currently reading and discussing the book, "The Purpose Driven Life," by Rick Warren. Come as you are. Please call the battalion chaplain for further details including information about acquiring Warren's book.

Officers' Christian Fellowship is available to all depot officers Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. The group meets for about an hour in the Headquarters Company classroom, Bldg. 6W. The meeting ends so that those involved in Friday Morning Colors are able to make it to the ceremony on time. The group study is currently focused on the book "Your Work Matters to God," by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks. Interested officers can join the study at any point in time whether or not they are familiar with or have been reading the subject book. Please give Lt. Col. Scott McLennan, executive officer, H&S Bn., a call at (619) 524-1980 for further details including information about acquiring the book.

Military holiday program

Churches, individuals, and organizations donate toys, games, books, and clothes for military children up to age 15. All active duty military families in San Diego County from pay grade E-1 to E-5 qualify for the program, but space is limited to the first 1,000 families to sign up online at www.militaryholiday.org/sd. For more information, call (877) 895-5942 ext. 4.

Toys for Tots

Each year the Marine Corps Reserve fulfills the Christmas dreams of millions of the nation's neediest children. Sadly, gifts always run out long before we run out of children. Please help your fellow Marines, who conduct the annual Toys for Tots Program, by donating to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org

Sportsman's Club

The Sportsman's Club of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is now open to depot personnel, active duty, retirees, reservists and Department of Defense employees. The club promotes and enriches hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Officials hold club meetings the second Tuesday of every month at Building 25264 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton at

6:30 p.m. For more information, check out the club Web site at <http://thesportsmansclub.netfirms.com> or call Master Sgt. John Cullen at (760) 725-7537. E-mail him at cullenjr@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Photo contest

The deadline for the 43rd Annual Naval and Maritime Photo Contest is Dec. 31. The contest, sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union, recognizes outstanding photographers for their work on a naval or maritime theme.

Photos must be of a naval or nautical subject, not limited to calendar year of contest. Winning photographs have ranged from a dory at Mystic Seaport to Marines on ship.

The contest is open to both amateur and professional photographers. Winning photographs will be published in the April 2005 issue of Proceedings magazine.

Winners will also receive a one-year membership in the Naval Institute, and the following cash prizes: First place: \$500, second place: \$350, third place: \$250, honorable mentions: \$100 (15 awards).

Go to www.navalinstitute.org and select "Contests" on the site map for complete contest rules.

Leaders requested to promote climate survey

The Marine Corps Climate Survey is a Marine Corps-wide survey that measures perceptions of organization and command climate, as well as experiences of discrimination and sexual harassment. The survey is sponsored by the Manpower Equal Opportunity Branch, Manpower Plans and Policy Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.

The success of efforts in evaluating these areas depends on the individual Marine, regardless of rank, ethnicity or gender.

Approximately 11,000 active duty Marines and 9,000 Marine reservists have been randomly selected to participate in the survey. For the data to be valid, it is important that those Marines complete and return it.

Responses to the survey will be analyzed for differences among ethnic groups, between male and female Marines and between officers and enlisted personnel.

Leaders at all levels are asked to support this effort by encouraging those Marines randomly selected to participate and complete the survey. The survey addresses important issues that affect all Marines, and their quick response will ensure their opinions are reflected in the findings.

Mexico border area liberty policy violation update

The San Diego Police Department routinely conducts Operation Safe Crossing with the help of various local law enforcement agencies. Operation Safe Crossing is designed to deter underage drinking in Tijuana, Mexico.

All military personnel without their armed forces identification cards will be denied entry into Mexico.

San Diego police will arrest any people regardless of age coming back from Tijuana, who are too intoxicated to take care of themselves. Commander Navy Region Southwest Border Shore Patrol will maintain a visual presence and assist SDDP upon request in handling or taking custody of any military personnel.

Submit possible Chevron briefs via e-mail to edward.guevara@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards and regulations of the U.S. Government.



Local Marines unload groceries at the Nice Guys 2004 community Christmas party. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron photos



Tiffany Ly, 4, and Marcus Hyde, 3, ride an airborne canoe at the party.



More than 2,000 San Diego-area children participated in events such as the football toss hosted by the San Diego Chargers.



Santa reminded Samuel Standifird to be extra nice as approximately 2,000 area children pleaded their cases to the big man in red.

Organizer: Party gives ‘Hand up, not hand out’

Party, from pg. 1

"It was a good day for families to get together and have fun without spending a lot of money," said Sgt. Francisco Castro, the supply division's phaseline

noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The kids loved the rides and building their projects. It was just great to spend time with them."

"This is our way of giving back to the community," said Sports. "We try to help out those who need it during this time of year."

During the event, more than 1,000 turkeys and 800 hams were given away, as well as two bags of groceries to every family, according to Sports.

"It was a good thing for the kids and the families," said Castro. "The Nice Guys gave them something they may not have had. Some families worry about having a holiday meal and where Christmas presents will come from. Because of the organization, the holiday will be better for their bellies and spirit."

According to the Nice Guys Web site, the organization began in 1979 and now has more than 130 men and women running the non-profit organization.

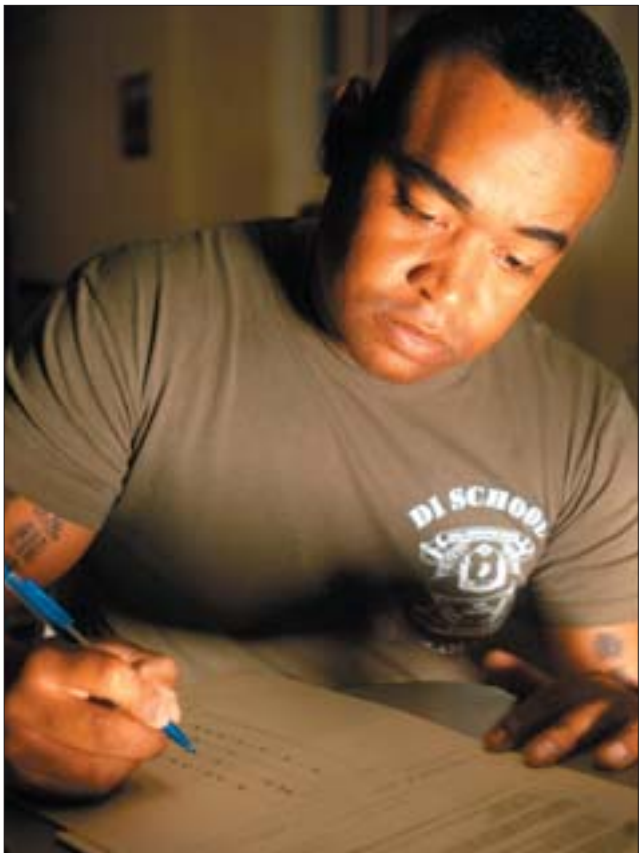
"We try to provide assistance to those who need a hand up, not a hand out," said Skip Giesting, Nice Guys president. "Through our program, we look for those who fall between the cracks sometimes and try to help them get back on their feet."



The Corvelles sing Christmas carols during the party at Qualcomm Stadium.



Staff Sgt. Gerard Fillion, Drill Instructor School student, demonstrates his knowledge of CPR to his squad instructor Staff Sgt. Eduardo Espinal.



Staff Sgt. Alejandro Walker, Drill Instructor School student, bubbles in answers to his written CPR test. Walker was last stationed here as an administrative chief.



Staff Sgt. Henry L. Lagrone, student, Drill Instructor School, reads from his drill card while practicing close order drill movements at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field. All students must pass a final drill exam before graduating from the school. *Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos*



Maj. Michael D. Grice, Drill Instructor School director, teaches students how to properly lead a hike. When the students become drill instructors, they will be required to lead recruits on several hikes.

DI, from pg. 1
evaluated by instructors and fellow students. The students also get to stretch their legs during five and eight-mile hikes at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. The hikes are a part of preparation for the Crucible, which the students go through toward the end of the course.

“The students go through everything the recruits go through during training,” said Ledferd, a 41-year-old native of Springfield, Ill.

But a big part of the course curriculum focuses on drill and learning the Standard of Operations manual – the bible for recruit training.

All of these classes prepare the Marines to take on the responsibility of training the Corps’ future. While many Marines volunteer for the drill field, they don’t know what school will be like.

“You hear stories out in the fleet about DI school,” said Ledferd. “You probably hear it’s like a mini-boot camp. But the school is professional-level. We treat students as sergeants and staff noncommissioned officers.

“We want the students to be a leader first and a DI second. Sometimes that goes out the window when that (DI) cover goes on. They need to treat their fellow drill instructors with professionalism, too. The example needs to be set for students to conduct themselves as DIs, and how they should treat their fellow Marines when they go across the street (after graduation), especially those junior to them.”

One way Ledferd is changing the school atmosphere is with counseling.

“There’s not a lot of yelling and screaming like in recruit training,” said Ledferd, who first served as a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., in 1994. “It’s positive and corrective counseling,” said Ledferd. “It puts the focus on positive leadership vice negative leadership.”

Ledferd, a former artilleryman, said DI School should be more like a professional military education school like the Sergeant, Career and Advanced Courses.

“I feel the atmosphere should be on a scholar and student relationship, vice a DI and recruit relationship.”

Before Marines can get orders to DI School, they must have a first-class Physical Fitness Test score, all annual training must be completed, and they must have family and financial stability.

“We usually have four classes per year,” said Ledferd. “And we start with about 60 students, but there is a 15 to 20 percent attrition rate. That’s normally due to medical issues that pre-existed in a student or due to injuries that happen at school.”

DI School is challenging, according to Ledferd, but the journey doesn’t stop when the students earn the coveted DI campaign cover. A tour on the drill field is also very challenging, but DI school equips Marines with what they need to succeed.

“Be firm, but fair and demanding to recruits,” said Ledferd. “Use the leadership traits and principles and that will help you be a successful DI.”



The Drill Instructor School guidon is carried during every major event the students attend, and each squad within the school carries its own guidon. Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego teaches four classes of about 60 students each fiscal year. Fifteen to 20 percent of students don’t make the grade, according to the school’s first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Robert A. Ledferd. The current class, 1-05, graduates Wednesday.



Instructors at the Drill Instructor School lead their student squads through an eight-mile hike at Camp Elliott, Calif. The students must complete two hikes set at the school director’s discretion.

Marine Corps is religion to sailor

‘I want to use the Marine Corps ethics and traditions to make the Navy better.’

— **RP1 Julius Abeling**, “green-side sailor”



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Julius Abeling, Headquarters and Service Battalion’s religion program specialist, is the only enlisted sailor on the depot who complies with Marine uniform regulations. This means he is allowed to wear the Corps’ Service “C” uniform as long as he adheres to Corps appearance standards. *Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron*

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

He shoots expert on the rifle range, and he’s a certified Marine Corps marksmanship instructor. He can rattle off more Marine Corps knowledge than a third-phase recruit, and he runs three miles in less than 17 minutes. He wants to go through Drill Instructor School.

He’s a sailor.
Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Julius Abeling said he might as well be a Marine.
“I love the whole concept and attitude of the Marine Corps,” said Abeling. “Ever since I was a kid, I’ve always looked up to the Marine Corps.”

He joined the Navy in 1996 as a submarine electronics technician, but because he had no personal references, he lost his security clearance. The Navy said Abeling needed a new job.

“I wanted to be a corpsman,” said Abeling. “When they said that job was unavailable, I said I didn’t care what job I got, as long as I could serve with Marines. I didn’t even know what a religious programs specialist did when I took the job. I just knew I could serve with Marines.”

In combat, a religious programs specialist, or RP, serves as security for chaplains. Abeling joined a Marine infantry unit from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

“I loved being with the grunts,” said Abeling. “I got to do so much training. Any school I wanted to go to, they sent me.”

As a petty officer third class, Abeling earned certification as a primary marksmanship instructor and rifle range coach. Sailors who serve with Marines, aka “green-side sailors,” must shoot the M-16 A2 service rifle annually, unlike the rest of the Navy. His last three rifle scores were 48, 54 and 58. A perfect score is 65.

“The fact that sailors don’t rely on a high rifle score for promotion helps me relax and just have fun shooting,” said Abeling. “I think the fact that I’m not a Marine motivates me to do better.”

The Ilion, N.Y., native earned sailor of the quarter and sailor of the year at the infantry unit before he received orders to the depot in May 2002. Now he serves as leading petty officer for the depot’s RPs. His duties include supervising the junior RPs, coordinating physical fitness

tests and setting up for religious services.
“When I got here, it seemed like a different job,” said Abeling. “I’m not constantly on the move like I was with the grunts, so I try to get involved and volunteer as much as I can. If I have the time, I might as well make it worthwhile.”

“Petty Officer Abeling is a tenacious, reliable and responsible leader of sailors,” said Navy Master Chief Melvin Smith, depot command master chief. “His can-do attitude in support of the Marines is unparalleled. He understands the importance of being an asset to the Marines, as opposed to being a liability. He is unencumbered and unwavering in his support of the Navy-Marine Corps team.”

To make his time worthwhile, Abeling volunteers as a citizenship representative for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to help service members and their families gain U.S. citizenship. He also sets up and participates in community service projects. Abeling even finds the time to work part-time as a financial broker.

“I try to stay busy and motivated,” said Abeling. “I’m used to a fast-paced lifestyle, so I try to do as much as I can.”

Abeling’s leaders see his motivation and positive attitude, according to Smith.

“He is on par 24 hours a day,” said Smith. “He can always be relied on in these times on the depot with our lack of manpower in the religious ministries. He spends a lot of his off-duty time and weekends here to ensure that the chaplains are able to provide religious ministries to more than 1,000 recruits.”

Thirty-year-old Abeling earned depot sailor of the quarter honors recently, and he was selected as RP of the year for sailors serving with Marines. Next, Abeling will compete for RP of the year Navy-wide. His ambitions stretch beyond RP of the year.

“When I’m done here, I want to go through Drill Instructor School here,” said Abeling. “After that, I’d like to be a Navy recruit division commander. I want to use the Marine Corps ethics and traditions to make the Navy better.”

Perhaps a Marine at heart, Abeling’s leaders and peers said he is the image of the ideal sailor serving with Marines, even though his anchor has no eagle or globe.

Leatherneck Express drives Americans toward Corps

BY STAFF SGT. PAULINE FRANKLIN
8th Marine Corps Recruiting District

When Marine veteran Sgt. Tom Torget pulls into an area, his fully restored scarlet 1937 Ford panel truck emblazoned with Marine Corps graphics starts people talking. The newly completed “Leatherneck Express” is the culmination of two years of hard work and dedication, a project that combined his passion for history, old cars and the Marine Corps.

“I’m very proud of being a Marine, as every Marine is,” said the Kerrville, Texas, resident.

Torget’s love for the Marine Corps began in 1969 when he joined the Marine Reserves for a six-year hitch as a forward observer, calling in air strikes for his platoon. He left the Corps at the end of his first enlistment to pursue other goals, ultimately retiring from a career with a major energy corporation. But the pride and esprit de corps he found in the Corps has remained throughout his life.

“I read a lot about manpower issues and the large increase in personnel in the military during World War II. I tried to think of ways they might have been able to increase enlistments during that time,” he explained.

His affection for old cars led Torget to the idea of creating mobile recruiting stations, vehicles from which recruiters could have worked to enlist people. He spent nearly six years refining his ideas and researching vehicles from that era

before taking on the challenge of bringing his vision to life.

Torget said he decided to begin searching for a late 1930s panel truck, but initially had trouble finding one in good condition. Most of the few that survived were either rusted or had been renovated as something else. However, he posted a message on a Web site for old cars and got a response from a gentleman in Colorado who had just what Torget was looking for.

Torget spent the next two years refurbishing the vehicle at his own expense. He said he did much of the labor himself to restore the body, but left the interior and the custom paint job to the professionals. He also outfitted it with a horn that plays the Marines’ Hymn and a stadium-style sound system to play patriotic music. Torget completed the long process nearly three months ago and said he enjoys making appearances with the vehicle.

He never knew it during this restoration, but Torget’s idea for mobile recruiting stations was right on target for the Marine Corps, though they came more than 20 years before World War II.

The Marine Corps first employed three “recruiting stations on wheels,” as they were called, in 1916 on a trial basis, according to an August 1916 article in “The Marines Magazine.” 1st Lt. Harold Colvocoresses suggested the idea to superiors as an “economical, efficient and agreeable form of recruiting” outside cities, according to a July 1916 issue of “The Recruiters’ Bulletin,” a monthly recruiting publication.



Former Marine Sgt. Tom Torget refurbished a 1937 Ford panel truck to look like a World War II era vehicle that could have been used for recruiting. *Photo courtesy of Tom Torget*

As a result, the Southeastern (Atlanta), Boston and San Francisco districts each received one Studebaker to begin working suburban towns and villages not on railroad lines. With a little coordination in each town, the Marines were able to publicize and host rallies to speak to residents, distribute literature and enlist people out of the back of the vehicle. The Studebaker out of Atlanta, for example, averaged about five towns and 100 miles per day, according to “The Marines Magazine.”

Communities enthusiastically received these recruiting automobiles everywhere, according to The “Recruiters’ Bulletin” article, and recruiting in these areas increased

tremendously. One account from the Boston district was particularly impressive.

“Up to the twelfth of June, the day the car was received, but five men had been accepted, enlisted and transferred (in the Boston District). Of this number, two were re-enlistments,” according to Sgt. B. J. Doherty in “The Recruiters’ Bulletin” article. “At the end of June (after touring with the recruiting vehicle), we had accepted and transferred a total of 20 men, a very fair showing.”

Today, Torget carries on this spirit of recruiting and his pride in the Marine Corps by publicizing the Corps at events all over the country. The Leatherneck Express is scheduled to help lead the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Va., October 31. He has also offered his services to the local recruiting station here. His selfless acts and spirit of patriotism have drawn praise from many prominent figures.

“The president and I appreciate all you are doing to promote patriotism and military service in this special way,” wrote Vice President Dick Cheney in a message to Torget. “As a veteran, you should take special pride in the fact that you are the inspiration for a new generation of freedom’s defenders. Keep up the great work.”

That is exactly what he plans to do. Torget said he wants to use the vehicle to help the Corps whenever possible. His devotion and pride truly make him an amazing example of two of the Corps’ primary beliefs: “Once a Marine, always a Marine” and “The Change is Forever.”



Pvt. Michael S. Murphree enlisted in the Marine Corps even though he qualified to be an officer because he said he wants to earn respect. *Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron photos*

**RECRUIT
SPOTLIGHT**

Private matters

College grad chose enlisted route to start military career

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Michael S. Murphree could have been a second lieutenant, but he opted to march across Shepherd Field as a plain-sleeved private.

“I really feel like I need a taste of enlisted life,” said Murphree. “I just think as an officer, you get more respect if you were enlisted first.”

The decision came after Murphree talked to both U.S. Army and Marine Corps recruiters about enlisted and officer programs.

“I qualified for the officer programs, but it just didn’t feel right,” the 23-year-old said.

Murphree said he plans on earning a commission and assuming a more lucrative and distinguished military role as an officer, but not until his enlistment is over.

“Murphree is an above-average recruit,” said Staff Sgt. Ross Arnett, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2027, Company F. “He understands that respect is earned, not given, and he definitely wants to earn that respect. If he becomes an officer later, he can still relate to his enlisted Marines. He has the same experiences.”

“I felt like it was my duty to serve,” he said. “I especially thought it was important once we got involved in this war.”

Murphree wanted to serve for a long time, but he wanted his education first. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from The Ohio State University, and he said his family life played into that choice of major.

“My dad is a huge history buff,” said Murphree. “We would go on family trips, and dad would just give me and my brothers history lessons.”

The San Antonio native started his scholarly journey at the University of Texas at Austin as a general

liberal arts major, but something was missing.

“I missed sports,” said Murphree. “Texas isn’t really a lacrosse state.”

Murphree was a defenseman at Saint Mary’s Hall, a private school in San Antonio, and one of the high schools in Texas with a lacrosse team.

“I had some friends playing lacrosse at Ohio State,” said Murphree. “They told me about the school and team, and they said I should come out.”



Murphree counts crutches for another recruit at Company F’s final physical fitness test.

So Murphree transferred and became a Buckeye athlete. He walked onto the lacrosse team and played three years as a defenseman.

“I had a great time,” said Murphree. “I felt a lot better once I started playing lacrosse again. It took up almost all my free time, but it kept me in shape too.”

Murphree said he’s glad he stayed in shape because Marine Corps recruit training is pretty tough.

“I didn’t know what to expect when I got here,” admitted Murphree. “Being a college athlete, you stay in pretty good shape, but mentally, this has been the biggest challenge of my life.”

Marines take on many attributes from recruit training, and Murphree said he has gained a lot more self-confidence.

“I’ve always been a pretty confident guy,” said Murphree. “But I used to second-guess myself when personal challenges came up. I got a first-class swim (qualification). Before I came here, I would’ve given up on something that hard, but now I feel like I can do anything.”

Murphree’s platoon mates think highly of him and his confidence.

“He’s one of the best recruits in our platoon,” said Pvt. Christopher D. Jolly. “He isn’t afraid to do anything, and he always stays out of trouble.”

Murphree’s lack of fear extends beyond the squad bay. He signed up as an infantryman, and the probability of him fighting in Iraq doesn’t hinder his decision.

“I want to go to Iraq,” said Murphree. “That’s why I went infantry. I want to be as close to the fight as I can. It’s my duty. Of course, I don’t want to die, but if I do, it was for a good cause.”

According to Arnett, Murphree’s hunger for leadership will get him far in the Corps. He has a good education, and combined with the Corps’ fighting spirit, he should make a good officer some day.



(From left) Pvts. Elloyd Sanchez, Dustin D. McCann and Timothy N. Travis, Platoon 2027, Company F, perform crunches at Fox Co.'s final physical fitness test Friday. Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

FOX COMPANY



Platoon 2030
COMPANY HONORMAN
Pfc. P. R. Ignacio
Carson, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. R. Kagawa Jr.



Platoon 2027
SERIES HONORMAN
Pfc. J. M. Martin
Arnold, Mo.
Recruited by
Sgt. E. Hadzic



Platoon 2025
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. N. L. Densen
Plano, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. S. W. French



Platoon 2026
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. Z. L. Augustine
Shelby, Neb.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. G. A. Paquin



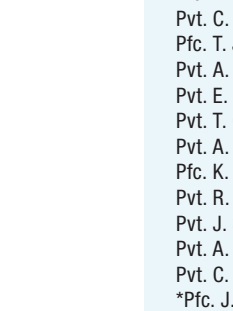
Platoon 2029
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. B. Skidmore
Vancouver, Wash.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. D. Keller



Platoon 2031
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. M. K. Godfrey
Ogden, Utah
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. S. Goodpasture



Platoon 2026
HIGH SHOOTER (243)
Pvt. C. W. Beeman
Houston
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. D. Skedick



Platoon 2025
HIGH PFT (298)
Pvt. J. H. Diaz
Houston
Recruited by
Sgt. M. D. Garrison

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Commanding Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.
Parade Adjutant
CAPT. J. D. DIAZ
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. E. JIMENEZ

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
MASTER SGT. D. W. PRICE

COLOR GUARD
SGT. J. B. ROUSCH
SGT. T. L. JACKSON
PVT. J. CLANTON
PVT. M. J. PARKER

Pvt. A. T. Maddox
Pvt. C. R. Mahan
Pvt. T. R. Masse
Pfc. Z. J. Maxa
Pvt. J. R. McCormick
Pvt. A. M. McCune
Pvt. N. A. Morgan
*Pfc. P. H. Morgan
Pvt. T. K. Nebola
Pvt. T. J. Nelson
*Pfc. O. J. Olson
Pvt. J. L. Parker
Pvt. R. A. Perugino
Pvt. K. A. Porter
Pvt. S. P. Raineri
Pvt. A. A. Ramirez
Pvt. J. L. Randolph
Pvt. D. W. Reeves
Pvt. R. J. Richardson
Pvt. T. D. Rinehart
Pvt. S. A. Uraine

Pfc. A. J. Chiabotti
Pvt. B. A. Childers
Pvt. M. H. Craft
Pvt. J. A. Crowner
Pvt. R. Cuellar
Pvt. A. M. Dautovic
Pvt. J. J. Deleon
Pvt. M. Diaz Abrego
Pvt. C. A. Duffin
Pvt. A. R. Duke
Pvt. J. L. Eads
Pvt. A. E. Elsmore
Pvt. P. T. Evans
Pvt. J. Faz
Pvt. L. D. Finkbeiner
Pvt. B. P. Flaherty
Pvt. C. S. Flanders
Pvt. R. B. Fly
Pvt. M. V. Forrester
*Pfc. D. S. Garcia
Pvt. W. L. Garner
Pvt. J. M. Gauthier
Pvt. R. N. Goodwin
Pvt. J. G. Goudeau
Pvt. J. D. Graff
Pvt. R. B. Harris
Pvt. J. A. Hendrix
Pvt. C. M. Hentges
Pvt. J. R. Hudson
Pvt. W. W. Hughes
Pvt. S. M. Hull
Pvt. L. A. Johnson
Pvt. E. M. Jones
Pvt. D. K. Katz
Pvt. C. T. King
Pvt. C. D. Klonowski
Pvt. A. O. Kwak
Pfc. J. E. Langham
Pvt. T. W. Buckey
*Pfc. D. H. Le

Pvt. J. T. Lecureux
Pvt. F. A. Lopez
Pvt. R. Lopez
*Pfc. Q. V. Luu
Pfc. D. J. Lyon
Pfc. T. J. Mackland
Pvt. C. D. Martin
Pvt. G. D. Martin
Pfc. A. P. Merzlock
Pvt. R. Mesa
Pvt. N. E. Neubecker
Pvt. T. H. Nguyen
Pvt. D. A. Oeconnor
Pvt. J. D. Parks
Pvt. C. R. Peardon
Pvt. T. L. Perkins
Pvt. T. A. Peterson
*Pfc. J. C. Piram
Pfc. B. W. Rawlinson
Pvt. C. W. Reed
Pvt. N. M. Reese
Pvt. C. E. Rumbo Barragan
Pvt. D. M. Rutherford
Pvt. M. A. Salas
Pvt. A. J. Sanderson
Pfc. B. D. Schott

PLATOON 2027
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. R. E. Arnette
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. Montoya
Staff Sgt. J. J. Villanueva
Sgt. J. E. Baker

PLATOON 2029
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. J. Clifton
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. J. Fuentes
Sgt. J. Jenkins

SECOND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. V. A. Ary
Chaplain
Lt. K. A. Medve
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. R. Anderson
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. D. A. Headrick

COMPANY F
Commanding Officer
Capt. R. M. Cunningham
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. J. L. Wilson
Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 3rd Class P. G. Medina

SERIES 2025
Series Commander
Capt. C. Roberts
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. C. G. Mathews

SERIES 2029
Series Commander
1st Lt. M. Murray
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. A. Loreda

PLATOON 2025
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. Zamora
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. D. R. Neel
Sgt. O. P. Scheiss
Staff Sgt. P. A. Valdez

Pvt. J. T. Andres
Pvt. C. M. Arnold
*Pfc. C. M. Ashburn
Pvt. A. D. Bedard
Pvt. K. C. Behrendt
Pvt. W. L. Benson
Pvt. B. P. Birdow
Pvt. C. F. Bohan Vanepps
Pfc. T. L. Bonner

Pvt. J. S. Boone
Pvt. A. M. Brahm
Pvt. R. J. Brazell
Pvt. D. M. Brooks
Pvt. O. Castaneda
Pvt. T. A. Castro
Pvt. R. T. Clark
Pvt. C. K. Collins
Pfc. I. J. Cox
Pvt. J. M. Davis
*Pfc. N. L. Denson
Pvt. D. M. Dougherty
Pvt. B. M. Doyle
Pvt. T. A. Eck
Pvt. A. D. Edwards
*Pfc. S. D. Ellis
Pvt. J. E. Evans
Pvt. K. E. Frederick
Pvt. M. J. Garcia
Pvt. P. J. Gembala
Pvt. C. J. Gilman
Pvt. R. L. Gomez
Pvt. C. S. Gonzalez
Pvt. E. Goodwin

Pvt. B. J. Gorecki
*Pfc. P. R. Griffin
Pvt. B. E. Harrell
Pvt. J. M. Hartley
Pvt. J. E. Heninger
Pfc. L. E. Herring
Pvt. J. M. Holmason
Pvt. D. A. Horney
Pvt. C. L. Huff
Pvt. M. J. Huston
Pvt. C. O. Jackson
Pvt. J. L. Jamieson
Pvt. J. J. Jans
Pvt. J. R. Johnson
Pvt. M. A. Juarez
Pvt. S. R. Kennelly
Pvt. A. D. Kettle
Pvt. B. Khoutsavanh
Pvt. J. J. Kim
Pvt. C. Kuestner
Pvt. A. Laabs
Pvt. A. J. Lake
Pfc. J. E. Landay
Pvt. B. J. Lascau
Pvt. G. B. Lynn

PLATOON 2026
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. J. McDermott
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. E. Tucker
Sgt. S. P. Engs

Pfc. C. L. Aing
Pfc. C. A. Almeida
*Pfc. Z. L. Augustine
Pvt. C. W. Beeman
Pvt. K. G. Beise
Pvt. D. J. Belec
Pfc. R. D. Belton
Pvt. J. M. Bielecki
Pvt. D. A. Bridwell
Pvt. K. E. Laskey
Pvt. J. S. Cahoon



A Company F recruit surges across the finish line after the 3-mile run portion of the final physical fitness test. Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

Pvt. E. Cantu
Pvt. K. J. Christenson
Pvt. J. P. Anderson
Pvt. R. C. Cornell
Pvt. D. J. Cornell
Pvt. P. A. Cowart
Pvt. R. P. Dickey
Pvt. J. J. Dismuke
Pvt. E. S. Ellis
Pfc. R. Emler
Pfc. C. M. Estrada
Pfc. C. D. Florence
Pvt. B. D. Fuoss
Pvt. S. M. Giles
Pfc. D. S. Goff
*Pfc. P. A. Guzman
Pvt. N. A. Hanning
Pfc. B. W. Hollis
Pvt. A. M. Holman
Pvt. C. D. Jolley
Pfc. T. J. Kalk
Pvt. A. J. Kary
Pvt. E. J. Keck
Pvt. T. C. Krentz
Pvt. A. B. Laramore
Pfc. K. A. Lipovsek
Pvt. R. S. Logan
Pvt. J. S. Lytle
Pvt. A. R. Macklin
Pvt. C. K. Mann
*Pfc. J. M. Martin
Pfc. M. C. Martinez
*Pfc. A. C. Matthews
Pvt. D. D. McCann
Pvt. A. R. McDonald
Pvt. P. M. McKaughan
Pvt. R. A. Molt
Pfc. B. C. Morgan
Pfc. M. S. Murphree
Pvt. F. A. Lopez
Pvt. R. Lopez
*Pfc. Q. V. Luu
Pfc. D. J. Lyon
Pfc. T. J. Mackland
Pvt. C. D. Martin
Pvt. G. D. Martin
Pfc. A. P. Merzlock
Pvt. R. Mesa
Pvt. N. E. Neubecker
Pvt. T. H. Nguyen
Pvt. D. A. Oeconnor
Pvt. J. D. Parks
Pvt. C. R. Peardon
Pvt. T. L. Perkins
Pvt. T. A. Peterson
*Pfc. J. C. Piram
Pfc. B. W. Rawlinson
Pvt. C. W. Reed
Pvt. N. M. Reese
Pvt. C. E. Rumbo Barragan
Pvt. D. M. Rutherford
Pvt. M. A. Salas
Pvt. A. J. Sanderson
Pfc. B. D. Schott

Pvt. J. M. Aguinaga
Pvt. J. P. Anderson
Pvt. J. D. Avila
Pvt. M. C. Bayly
*Pfc. T. T. Beckett
Pvt. S. K. Bell
Pvt. T. L. Bracken
Pvt. K. E. Brings Plenty
Pvt. V. L. Bunning
*Pfc. C. R. Burton
Pvt. J. E. Burton
Pfc. B. T. Bush
Pvt. R. D. Cain
Pvt. A. J. Caldera
Pvt. J. C. Cepeda
Pvt. R. W. Crow
Pvt. D. S. Curley
Pvt. D. W. Davis
Pvt. J. J. Devries
Pvt. J. D. Dutton
Pvt. S. H. Escobar
Pvt. G. Floresmartines
Pvt. J. C. Gochenouer
Pvt. C. A. Gutierrez
Pvt. J. D. Handley
Pvt. A. R. Hanna
Pvt. I. J. Hardie
Pvt. B. D. Harper
Pvt. Z. S. Hegland
Pvt. P. R. Hemminghaus
Pvt. C. L. Hernandez
Pvt. M. Horness
Pvt. J. D. Jaquith
Pvt. T. T. Juneau
Pvt. J. O. Kearney
Pvt. Z. J. Knight
Pvt. J. A. Knighton
Pvt. T. J. Kretzschmar
Pvt. A. K. Kreutz
Pvt. J. D. Lanuzo
*Pfc. C. A. Laurean
Pvt. Z. E. Lincoln
Pvt. G. D. Lomeli
Pvt. B. R. Loper
Pvt. B. R. Ludington
Pvt. D. Macielcruz
Pvt. C. J. Marken
Pvt. B. L. Martin
Pvt. R. A. Meisner
Pvt. L. J. Menaramos
Pvt. S. C. Mersereau
Pvt. T. L. Michaels
*Pfc. J. A. Miranda
Pvt. K. L. Moore
Pvt. K. B. Moore
Pvt. J. U. Morales
Pvt. S. A. Nixon
Pvt. E. B. Ong
Pvt. J. D. Peto
Pvt. E. J. Ramirez
Pvt. S. P. Riley
Pvt. E. Romeroreyes
Pvt. J. B. Sample
Pvt. J. D. Sanford
Pvt. K. D. Sanner
Pvt. K. E. Sawyer
Pvt. J. G. Sermersky
Pvt. S. B. Singleton
*Pfc. M. L. Villareal
Pvt. J. A. Whitney
Pvt. E. R. Wiggam
Pfc. J. R. Willis

Pvt. J. T. Urbina
Pvt. J. R. Vieth
Pvt. J. D. Woodrow

PLATOON 2030
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. N. P. Espiritu
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. T. Vu
Staff Sgt. H. Ruano
Sgt. A. J. Hawkins

Pvt. G. W. Lyles
Pfc. L. C. Maxwell
Pvt. M. E. Mayes
Pvt. J. A. McClure
Pfc. W. J. McDuffie
Pvt. N. J. Morris
Pfc. R. Munoz
Pvt. P. A. Pierjok
*Pfc. J. E. Pimentel
Pfc. J. R. Pruett
Pfc. M. A. Ramosvillalta
Pvt. S. W. Randall
Pvt. J. K. Rogotzke
Pvt. K. R. Ruggiero
Pfc. A. M. Russell
Pvt. I. A. Rutherford
Pvt. J. Y. Saelee
Pvt. S. O. Saldivar
Pfc. K. J. Schmechel
Pfc. C. E. Smallwood
*Pfc. W. S. Soots
Pfc. D. D. Sullins
Pvt. M. W. Sylva
*Pfc. L. P. Theisen
Pvt. J. E. Felix
Pvt. M. A. Ford
Pvt. P. L. Galvan
Pvt. P. T. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. F. Gonzalez Zarate
Pvt. A. J. Groll
Pvt. M. R. Harvey
Pvt. J. G. Hatcher
Pvt. R. Herrera
Pvt. K. M. Horvath
Pvt. G. J. Hoyt
Pfc. N. D. Hrdlicka
Pvt. D. M. Huckaby
*Pfc. P. R. Ignacio
Pvt. B. A. Ignacio
Pvt. M. D. Williams
Pfc. B. M. Wood
*Pfc. C. L. Young
Pfc. A. N. Yzabal
Pvt. M. A. Zamora

Pvt. A. L. Aguilar
Pvt. E. Aguiniga
Pfc. J. R. Alfaro
Pvt. C. E. Anderson
Pvt. A. C. Brevik
Pvt. S. O. Bridges
Pvt. K. J. Brown
Pvt. J. D. Butcher
Pvt. J. S. Decoster
Pfc. N. I. Dipietri
Pvt. B. J. Dooley
Pvt. J. R. Duncan
Pvt. J. E. Felix
Pvt. M. A. Ford
Pvt. P. L. Galvan
Pvt. P. T. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. F. Gonzalez Zarate
Pvt. A. J. Groll
Pvt. M. R. Harvey
Pvt. J. G. Hatcher
Pvt. R. Herrera
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Pvt. G. J. Hoyt
Pfc. N. D. Hrdlicka
Pvt. D. M. Huckaby
*Pfc. P. R. Ignacio
Pvt. B. A. Ignacio
Pvt. M. D. Williams
Pfc. B. M. Wood
*Pfc. C. L. Young
Pfc. A. N. Yzabal
Pvt. M. A. Zamora

PLATOON 2031
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. L. D. Harper

Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. C. A. Calderon
Sgt. A. C. Bueno

Pvt. J. B. Afalla
Pvt. T. A. Ainsworth
Pvt. H. Alarcon
Pvt. B. J. Anderson
Pvt. M. B. Austin
Pvt. S. M. Avalos
Pfc. T. L. Bell
Pvt. J. C. Berkovitz
Pvt. K. R. Breese
Pvt. J. A. Bristow
Pvt. B. J. Brumfield
Pvt. R. Carreonfernandez
Pvt. A. H. Carrillo
Pvt. J. Clanton
Pvt. D. J. Combs
Pfc. I. M. Costley
Pvt. J. M. Cuellar
Pvt. J. B. Day
Pvt. K. A. Donehoo
Pfc. O. M. Evans
Pfc. S. M. Flanagan
*Pfc. M. K. Godfrey
Pvt. D. J. Groves
Pvt. N. B. Hambleton
Pvt. J. C. Harderson
Pvt. K. R. Harris
Pvt. B. N. Hartsell
Pvt. B. C. Hicks
Pvt. C. R. Holtz
Pfc. R. M. Holz
Pvt. K. E. Kelch
Pvt. B. T. Konkol
Pvt. T. M. MacMillan
Pvt. A. S. Marini
Pvt. R. Martinez
Pvt. R. L. Martinez
Pvt. J. R. Mejia
Pvt. D. R. Meshak
Pvt. A. M. Miller
Pvt. H. Morin
Pvt. M. J. Parker
Pvt. C. L. Parks
Pvt. D. M. Peters
Pvt. J. W. Phelps
Pvt. N. C. Ratcliff
Pvt. A. L. Rawlings
Pvt. D. C. Riekana
Pvt. A. J. Roque
Pfc. E. A. Santos
Pvt. S. C. Seyer
Pvt. G. G. Sherbon
Pvt. A. S. Shetty
Pvt. A. J. Smith
Pvt. M. A. Smith
Pvt. J. S. Soriano
Pvt. S. A. Spradley
Pvt. J. T. Stafford
Pvt. K. J. Stanzione
Pvt. J. M. Stork
Pvt. J. C. Stritzel
Pvt. J. L. Taylor
Pvt. A. C. Taylor
Pvt. A. R. Thomas
Pvt. P. W. Thomas
Pvt. C. A. Timko
Pfc. C. P. Tomow
Pvt. J. P. Turner
*Pfc. N. Vargas
*Pfc. J. L. Vee
*Pfc. D. R. Waldron
Pfc. N. H. Wall
*Pfc. S. C. Whaley
Pvt. T. C. White
Pvt. T. J. Williams
Pfc. J. O. Wofford
Pvt. T. A. Wolfe
Pvt. S. Xiong
Pvt. R. J. Yanulis
*Pfc. N. M. Zallis

meritorious promotion

Retired Col. Jeffrey Powers

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Col. Jeffrey Powers was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine

Corps following graduation from Villanova University.

In January 1978, he assumed duties as platoon commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. Following this assignment, he served as platoon commander and executive officer in Co. B, 1st Recon Bn. In August 1981, he transferred to 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. and served as assistant operations officer and company commander.

From July 1982 to 1988, he served in various billets to include Marine officer instructor, student at the Defense Language School, assistant operations officer with the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and company commander of the 11th Co., 1st Amphibious Combat Group. In September 1988, he assumed the duties as company commander, Co. B, 3rd Light Armored Infantry Bn.

In November 1990, he deployed to Saudi Arabia as task force commander, Task Force Lima, 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Operation Desert Shield. In September 1990, he was assigned as task force operations officer for Task Force Shepherd. In March 1991, he assumed command of 3rd Light Armored Infantry Bn.

Following his service in Operation Desert Storm, Powers was assigned to the Army Special Forces Detachment Training Group as a student, and later as company commander with Co. B, 1st Bn., 1st Special Force Training Group. In August 1995 he was assigned as officer-in-charge, Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

From January 1998 to January 2000, he commanded the "Highlanders" of 1st Light Armored Recon Bn. until his assignment as deputy future operations, I MEF.

In July 2001, he served as director, Naval Expeditionary Warfare, N5, EWTG-PAC until his retirement.

Powers' personal decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat V device, three Meritorious Service Medals and the Combat Action Ribbon. Powers has two daughters, Amanda and Brittany.

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Fox Company answered Chevron's random questions about their interests and boot camp experiences:

Q: What's the best MRE?



Pfc. Célio A. Almeida
Apple Valley, Minn.

A: Beef ravioli. It's good even cold.

Q: What was your worst day in boot camp?



Pvt. Michael Alan Hull
Westville, Ill.

A: The first day.

Q: What was the scariest moment or recruit training?



Pvt. Nathan E. Neubecker
Lupton, Mich.

A: My first deep breath in the gas chamber.

Q: What did you miss most from civilian life?



Pfc. Adam J. Chiabotti
Mankato, Minn.

A: Sleeping in Saturday mornings.

Q: Did you ever sneak food?



Pvt. Matthew P. Gauthier
Roseville, Calif.

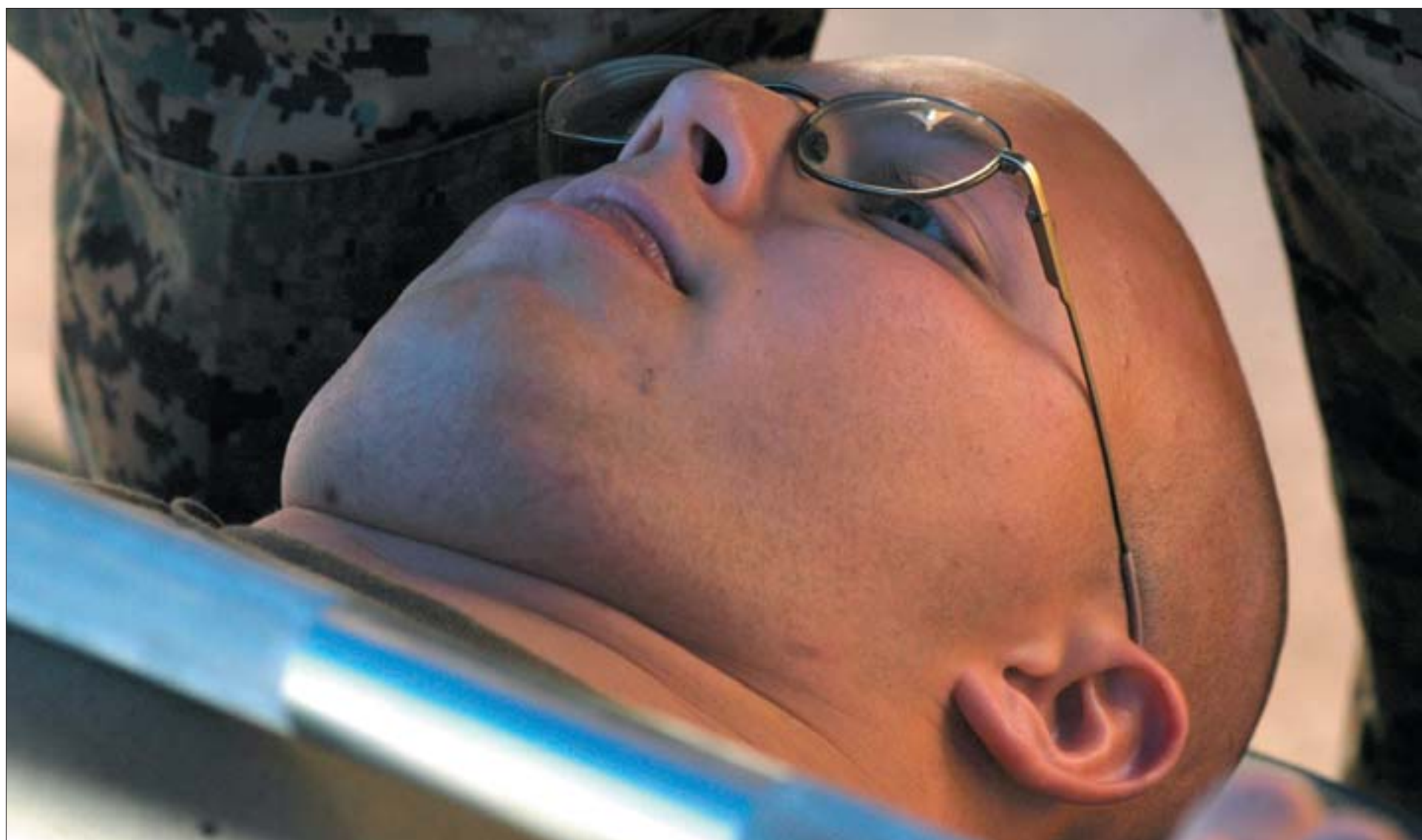
A: No. That would be stupid, especially if caught.



A competition official loads weights to the bar, which shows 375 pounds. Sgt. Joseph C. Bowman, an Absentee Collection Unit administration chief, took the men's trophy with his 380-pound bench press.



A spotter positions over the bar to ensure the competitor's safety and proper press technique.



Pfc. Roger L. Talbot, network technician, Communications Information Systems Department, benches his maximum 275 pounds at Phillips Hall Nov. 30. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

Bench bodies press iron in competition

LIFTOFF

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

More than 20 service members competed in a Cpmmanding General's Cup bench press competition at Phillips Hall Nov. 30, as students from a local high school compared their own might to the military's.

Sgt. Joseph C. Bowman, Absentee Collection Unit administration chief, took the overall trophy for males after successfully pressing 380 pounds, and Maj. Rhesa J. Ashbacher, Staff Judge Advocate, hoisted 155 pounds to take overall female honors.

"The competition was cool," said Lance Cpl. Roger L. Talbot, defense messaging system technician. "I got to meet some people that liked the same stuff I did, and I was surprised at some of the weight these men lifted."

Though students from Sweetwater High School, National City, Calif., contributed their own weightlifting efforts to the event, Marine Corps Community Services fitness coordinator Samuel T. Davis said, "I try to keep it all active duty so that the participants feel like it is all within the base."

Spotters positioned around the bench ensured every press followed protocol and every competitor was safe, but lifting hun-

dreds of pounds at once has its own risks as travel clerk Sgt. David L. Dixon found out. Competitors were allowed to increase weight after each successful lift, and Dixon hurt his left shoulder while attempting to lift 265 pounds.

According to Davis, Marine Corps Community Services organizers are planning a power-lifting competition at Phillips Hall in 2005, which will include a squat and dead lift portion in addition to a bench press.

Strongmen like Cpl. David N. Kusnitz, a Recruit Training Regiment administrative clerk, said the power-lifting idea is a good one because that kind of competition would better represent overall strength.